

# What to Expect After a Gastrostomy Button

Your child will have an opening, called a button, placed in their stomach to provide nutrition. This button is called a gastrostomy button, or G-button.

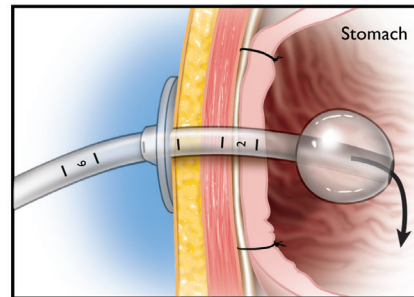
## OVERVIEW

Date of placement: \_\_\_\_\_

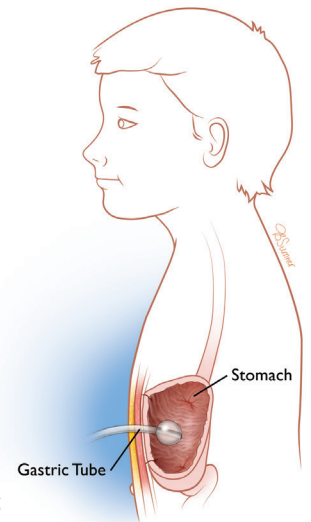
Brand/type of G-button: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ French (diameter)

with a length of \_\_\_\_\_ cm



© 2014 Texas Children's Hospital



## GENERAL G-BUTTON SITE CARE

It takes about 6 weeks for the stomach and skin around the G-button to heal.

It is important to take extra care of the button. Clean the G-button site two times per day.

You may bathe your child but bath water should not be so deep that the tube is under the water.

## CLEANING THE SITE

1. Gather supplies: Cotton tip applicators, mild soap and water.
2. Wash hands with soap and water for 15 seconds.
3. Dip the cotton tip applicator in warm, soapy water. Roll the cotton tip applicator in a circular motion underneath the g-button and away from the gastrostomy site. Clean around the entire g-button. Repeat until site is free of gastric content or formula residue.
4. Dip the cotton tip applicator in warm water. Roll the cotton tip applicator in a circular motion underneath the g-button and away from the gastrostomy site to rinse. Clean around the entire g-button.
5. Use a dry cotton tip applicator to dry the site completely. If the site is left wet it can cause other problems.
6. Turn the G-button with site care. This stops the healing skin from sticking to the tube.

**Do not:** Clean with hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, or heavily scented soaps.

**Do not:** Use ointments, medications or powders to the G-button site unless ordered by your doctor.

**Do not:** Put dressings on the tube site unless instructed.

## FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS

Only use formula ordered by your doctor through the G-tube.

1. Gather supplies for feeds: formula, pump, water, syringe, feeding bag, and SECUR-LOK feeding extension tubes.
2. Wash hands with soap and water for 15 seconds.
3. Prime tubing with formula to remove air.
4. Connect feeding tubing to the G-button or connect the bolus connection syringe/tube for bolus feeds.
5. Give feeds with formula at room temperature (check with your doctor before putting medications through your tube).
6. Immediately before and after feedings and medications, flush the tube with amount of water ordered by your physician.
7. Rinse items used for feeding with warm water.

**Do not:** add medication to your formula.

## POTENTIAL CONCERNS

**Dislodgement:** If the G-button comes out, this is an emergency. Go to a Texas Children's Hospital Urgent Care/ Emergency Room.

**Infection:** If redness surrounding the gastrostomy site, thick yellow drainage, foul odor, pain or fever of 100.4° F, then call the Pediatric Surgery clinic.

**Clogged tube:** If you are not able to flush the G-tube or if pump alarm beeps occlusion the tube may be clogged. *Do not* force fluids into the tubing. Check to make sure tubing is not clamped or kinked.

1. Gather a 60 ml syringe and warm water.
2. Fill syringe with 10-15 ml of warm water and connect syringe and gently move plunger back and forth.
3. If tubing does not clear then clamp the tube for 5-20 minutes and allow water to "soak"
4. After the 5-20 minutes fill syringe with another 10-15 ml of water and try again to flush.
5. If clog continues, call Pediatric Surgery Clinic at the number listed below.

**Leaking:** A small amount of moisture or leaking maybe normal and may cause redness and granulation tissue. For small amount of leaking refer to the instructions on cleaning the site on previous page. However, while granulation tissue may be bothersome, it is not dangerous.

If leaking occurs:

1. Make sure the button is flat against the skin.
2. Check to make sure the feeding tube and connections are secure.
3. Use one split gauze.
4. If having abdominal distention and vomiting, contact your Pediatric Surgery Clinic.
5. Call for an urgent appointment if more than one-half of feeds or medications leak. Increase leakage could be caused by an underlying illness.

**Granulation:** This is not an emergency. Extra lumpy or bumpy red pink flesh, that grows around the feeding tube. It may be moist, soft to touch, and may bleed easily. Granulation tissue is a response to friction from movement of the tube, pressure from the tube or moisture in the area. If granulation tissue develops call your local Pediatric Surgery Clinic at the number provided below – *a trip to the emergency room is not necessary.*



## URGENT MATTERS

### Call the Pediatric Surgery Clinic If Your Child

- Has signs of infection: redness, swelling, and pus around the G-tube or wound.
- A temperature greater than 100.4° Fahrenheit with changes in the wound's appearance.
- Continues to throw up with feeds.

### Go to the ER If

- The tube falls out before the 6 weeks follow-up.

© 2018 Texas Children's Hospital. All rights reserved. Developed by the Division of Pediatric Surgery

## Pediatric Surgery Clinic Numbers

Texas Medical Center 832-822-3135

West Campus 832-227-2250

The Woodlands 936-267-7333

[texaschildrens.org/pediatric-surgery](https://texaschildrens.org/pediatric-surgery)